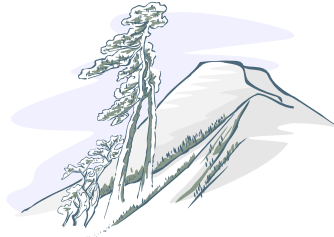


THE RUNNING IRON

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to bigger and better things this New Year.

NEW MILEAGE RATE APPROVED - We just got word from the Governor's office that the state has approved a new mileage reimbursement rate of \$.445 cents per mile for state employees using their own vehicle for the convenience of the state. You may begin using the new rate immediately for miles traveled from January 1, 2006. Anything already submitted will either be corrected at the Elko office or in the Reno accounting office.

Included in this mailing is a new, laminated "cheat sheet" with the new mileage rate for your use. This is the rate you will use to charge for small loads and holidays.

STAFF CHANGES - Dr. David Thain, State Veterinarian, will be leaving the Department of Agriculture in February to take the job of Extension Veterinarian (Dr. Bill's old job) with UNR. We wish him good luck in his new position, which will allow him to work closely with Nevada producers. The State Board of Agriculture will soon begin the process of seeking a replacement for Dr. Thain.

BRAND BOOK SUPPLEMENT - Included in this mailing is a new Supplement to the 2004 Nevada Brand Book. It is to be used in addition to the previous supplement that you received in February of last year.

OFFICE ISSUES-INSPECTORS PLEASE TAKE NOTE - **Time and mileage on holidays--** Throughout this recent holiday season the office has had to call many of you for time-sheet corrections because you did not charge time and mileage when you did inspections in the field on designated state holidays as per policy. We have to pay the inspector double time for working on a holiday and need to recoup some of the additional wage cost. Cara has included a calendar with the up-coming designated holidays marked on it for the next couple of months. Actually, I think there is only one, Presidents Day, in February.

Requests for supplies—Inspectors, please try to plan ahead a little more and let the office staff know a week or two **before** you run out of certificate books or supplies. It is difficult to arrange

delivery of supplies when the request for a new certificate book is called in the afternoon before the scheduled inspection is to take place on the other side of the state. With the cost of postage going up regularly it saves us a lot if we use Media Mail, which takes longer to get to you.

WESTERN STATES LIVESTOCK INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice has come for all Brand Inspector II's that the WSLIA annual meeting and training will take place on March 15-16 at the Peppermill in Reno again this year. More information will be forthcoming as we get it.

HEARINGS ON BRAND FEE INCREASES AND OTHER MATTERS SCHEDULED

As you have all probably heard, the State Board of Agriculture approved the Divisions request to hold hearings on a number of proposed fee increases that effect revenue generation for the Brand Division. These increases have become necessary due to the recent increases in the cost of doing business. The recent increases in the cost of fuel and wages, which were allowed during the last legislative session, greatly impacted the Division's budget. Although I can document yearly savings or costs covered by grants and other sources in the \$250,000 range, it has reached the point of either generating more revenue or cutting services. The Division of Livestock Id. which is made up of approximately 100 people at any given time, now only has 3 full time employees in its budget.

A brief description of the proposed changes includes:

- 1) Change NAC 565 to increase the brand inspection fee from \$.90/hd to \$1.00/head.

Change the cattle inspection fee structure to be consistent with the horse inspections in that, if the inspector goes to the producer, the 1st head inspected will cost \$10 and each additional head of cattle will cost \$1. However, there will be no more time and mileage charged except for holidays, inventory inspections, or less than 24 hours notice. Small loads of cattle brought to the inspector will be assessed at \$1/hd. straight through.

Change the inspection fee for additional horses from \$2/hd. to \$5/hd.

Change the fee for cattle inspected on special permits from \$.25 to \$.40/hd.

Change the time charge for an inspector from \$12/hr. to \$16/hr. when applicable

Include a clause that Movement Permits and Special/Extraordinary Permits may be revoked if misused.

- 2) Change NAC 573 to increase the yearly license fee for public livestock auctions and sales from \$100 to \$150.
- 3) Change NAC 576 to increase the license fee for livestock and farm products dealers, brokers, and commission merchants from \$40/yr. to \$100/yr. and, for an agent, from \$10/yr. to \$25/yr.

The hearing schedule is as follows:

Elko—February 16, 2006 at 2 PM in the new Dept. of Ag. building, 4780 E. Idaho St.

Winnemucca—February 22, at 1 PM, Extension office building on Fairgrounds Rd.

Fallon—February 22, at 7 PM, Extension office building on Sheckler Rd.

Ely—February 28, at 1 PM, FSA office, 744 E. North Industrial Way.

Las Vegas—March 1, at 2 PM, Dept. of Ag. building, 2300 McLeod St.

All area brand inspectors who attend one of these hearings may claim their time to attend on their timesheet, as this will constitute training.

If you have any questions, please call the Elko office.

Have a good winter and, be careful out there!

